

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 IO-10 /072 R

DRAFTED BY ARA-CAR:JRBURKE:AF

APPROVED BY ARA-CAR:JRBURKE

EUR/NE:JJCROWLEY (SUBSTANCE)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UK, US, XL

SUBJECT: PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM MR. WILSON TO THE PRIME
MINISTERS/PREMIERS OF JAMAICA, TRINIDAD, GUYANA,
AND THE ASSOCIATED STATES.

1. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM PRIME
MINISTER WILSON TO PRIME MINISTERS/PREMIERS OF JAMAICA,
TRINIDAD, GUYANA, AND THE ASSOCIATED STATES REGARDING
FUTURE CONSTITUTIONAL STATUS OF ANGUILLA.

2. QUOTE: IT IS NOW EIGHT YEARS SINCE THE RELATIONSHIP
BETWEEN ANGUILLA AND THE OTHER PARTS OF THE ASSOCIATED
STATE STARTED TO GIVE US ALL CAUSE FOR CONCERN. BUT I HOPE
THAT WE MAY NOW BE IN SIGHT OF A SOLUTION.

3. AS YOU MAY KNOW WE WERE COMMITTED BY UNDERTAKINGS
GIVEN BY HER MAJESTY'S MINISTERS IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS
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TO REVIEW THE STATUS OF ANGUILLA THREE YEARS AFTER THE EN-

ACTMENT OF THE ANGUILLA ACT 1971- SINCE LAST YEAR THEREFORE WE HAVE BEEN CAREFULLY CONSIDERING THE VIEWS OF THOSE DIRECTLY CONCERNED AND TRYING TO FIND MEANS OF MEETING THEIR WISHES THROUGH CONSULTATION WITH THE PREMIER AND MINISTERS OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT AND WITH THE ANGUILLANS.

4. I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT WE FOR OUR PART HAVE APPROACHED THESE DISCUSSIONS WITH A GENUINE DESIRE TO SEEK A WAY

FORWARD WHICH WOULD GO AS FAR AS POSSIBLE TO RECONCILE THE VIEWS AND ASPIRATIONS OF ALL PARTIES. ON THE ONE HAND, WE HAVE RESPECTED THE VIEW HELD BY MR. BRADSHAW AND OTHER COMMONWEALTH CARIBBEAN GOVERNMENTS CONCERNING FRAGMENTATION IN THE AREA. ON THE OTHER HAND, WE HAVE TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S UNDERTAKING THAT THE ANGUILLANS WOULD NOT BE FORCED TO LIVE UNDER AN ADMINISTRATION THEY DID NOT WANT, AND HAVE THEREFORE HAD TO LOOK FOR A SPECIAL FORM OF ADMINISTRATION IN THE INTERESTS OF GOOD GOVERNMENT.

5. IN ALL OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH THE ANGUILLANS IT WAS APPARENT THAT THEY WERE TOTALLY OPPOSED TO ANY SUGGESTION THAT ANGUILLA SHOULD REVERT TO THE STATUS OF A FULLY INTEGRATED CONSTITUENT PART OF THE STATE SUBJECT IN ALL MATTERS TO THE STATE GOVERNMENT. INDEED THE ANGUILLANS PRESSED US VERY HARD FOR FINAL AND FORMAL SEPARATION OF ANGUILLA FROM THE STATE. I NEED HARDLY SAY THAT WE FULLY UNDERSTAND THE DIFFICULTIES SUCH A CHANGE WOULD PRESENT FOR MR. BRADSHAW.

6. IN RECENT TALKS IN LONDON, HOWEVER, WE HAVE AFTER DIFFICULT NEGOTIATION SECURED THE ANGUILLAN LEADERS' AGREEMENT TO A COMPROMISE WHICH WILL PRESERVE THE INTEGRITY OF THE STATE WHILE A NEW CONSTITUTION TO BE MADE BY MEANS OF A SELF-CONTAINED ORDER IN COUNCIL UNDER THE ANGUILLA ACT 1971 WILL PROVIDE FOR ANGUILLA A LARGER MEASURE OF AUTONOMY IN DOMESTIC AFFAIRS.

7. I ASK YOU TO BELIEVE THAT IN FACING THIS PROBLEM WE HAVE HONESTLY SOUGHT TO FIND A SOLUTION WHICH MIGHT
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SATISFY THE ASPIRATIONS OF ALL THE PEOPLES OF THE STATE WHILST PROVIDING FOR PEACEFUL CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT. I CAN SEE NO BETTER WAY OF ACHIEVING THIS THAN THROUGH THE COMPROMISE ARRANGEMENTS WE HAVE REACHED. I DEEPLY REGRET THAT MR. BRADSHAW HAS FELT UNABLE TO ENDORSE THESE PROPOSALS. I AM SENDING HIM A FURTHER MESSAGE, EXPLAINING THAT I FEEL OUR COURSE MUST BE TO GO AHEAD WITH THEM. WE INTEND TO MAKE AN ANNOUNCEMENT ACCORDINGLY ON FRIDAY 30

MAY. END QUOTE. INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXT, SELFDETERMINATION, NEGOTIATIONS, CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE126466
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: CAR:JRBURKE:AF
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750190-0369
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975054/aaaaaday.tel
Line Count: 116
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 JUN 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <05 NOV 2003 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM MR. WILSON TO THE PRIME MINISTERS/PREMiers OF JAMAICA, TRINIDAD, GUYANA
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, UK, US, XL, AV, (WILSON, HAROLD)
To: BRIDGETOWN
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006